

**FIG. 2**

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ORDERED STEP SEQUENCE	SET OF EVALUATED NODES E	SET OF REMAINING NODES R	SET OF ORDERED PATHS O
1	N1	N2, N3, N4	N1-N3 = 10 N1-N2 = 40
2	N1, N3	N2, N4	N1-N3-N4 = 20 N1-N2 = 40
3	N1, N3, N4	N2	N1-N3-N4-N2 = 30 N1-N2 = 40
4	N1, N3, N4, N2	NULL	N1-N2 = 40 N1-N3-N4-N2-N1 = 70
5	N1, N2, N3, N4	NULL	N1-N3-N4-N2-N1 = 70

FIG. 3

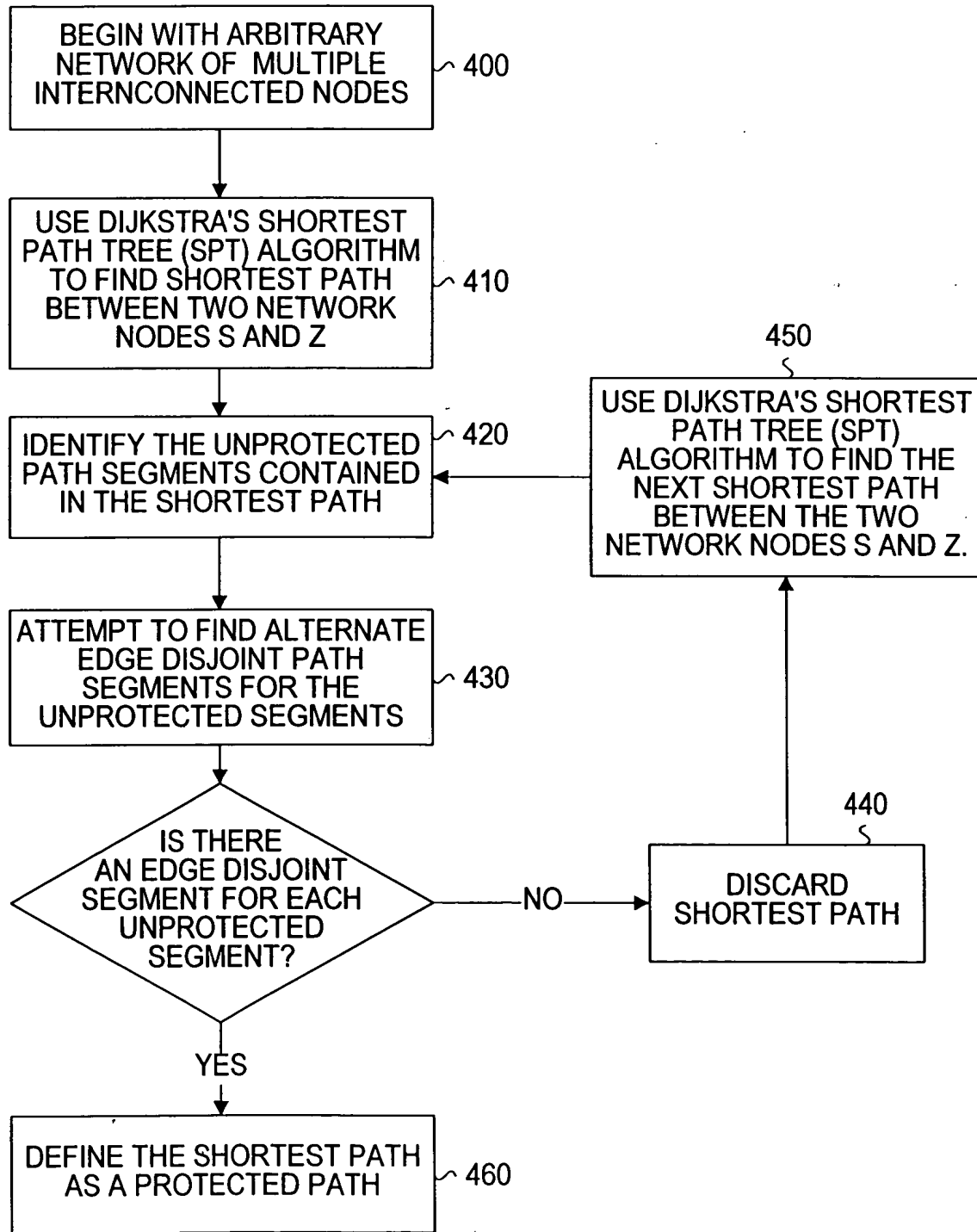


FIG. 4 (PRIOR ART)

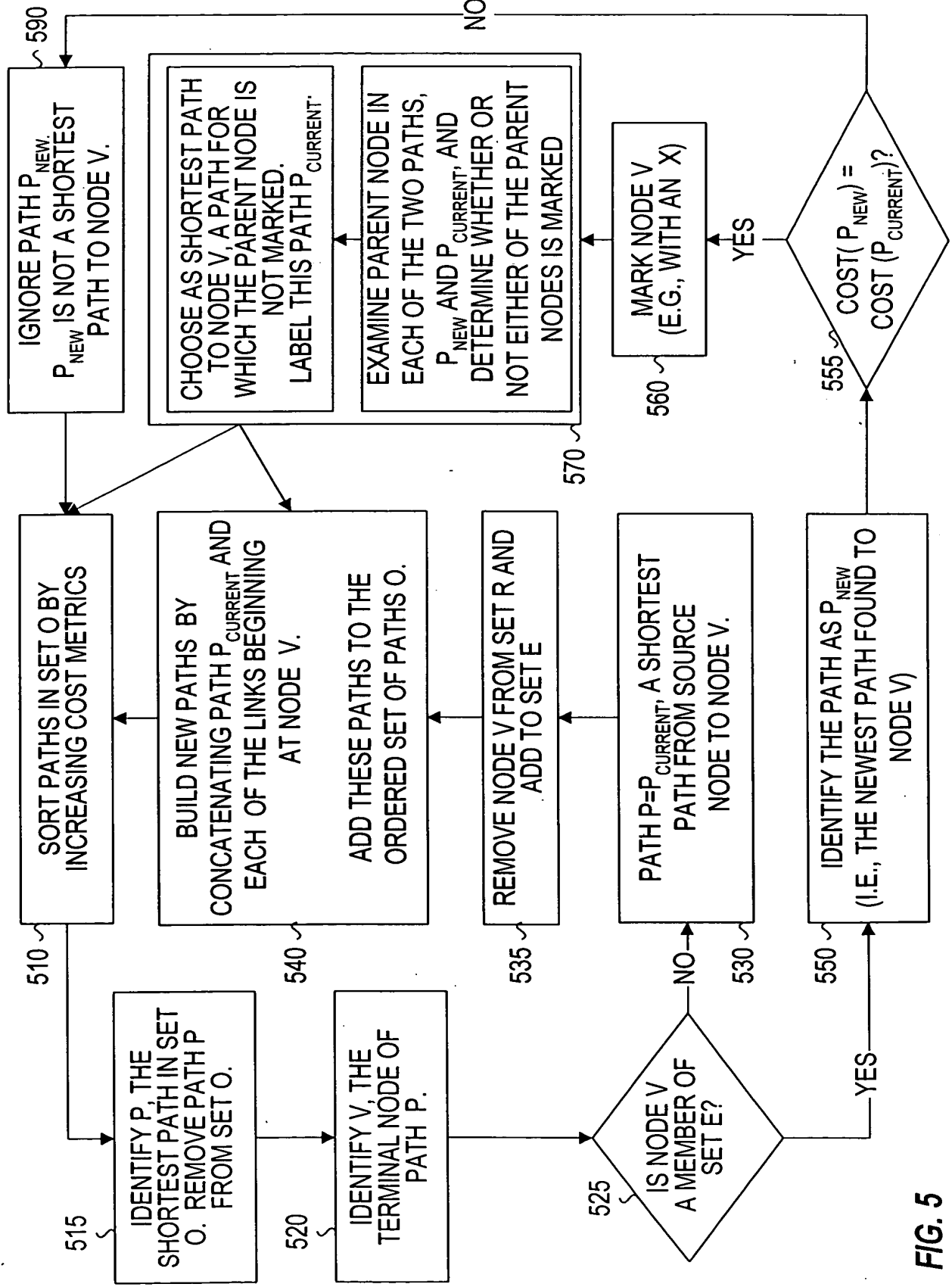
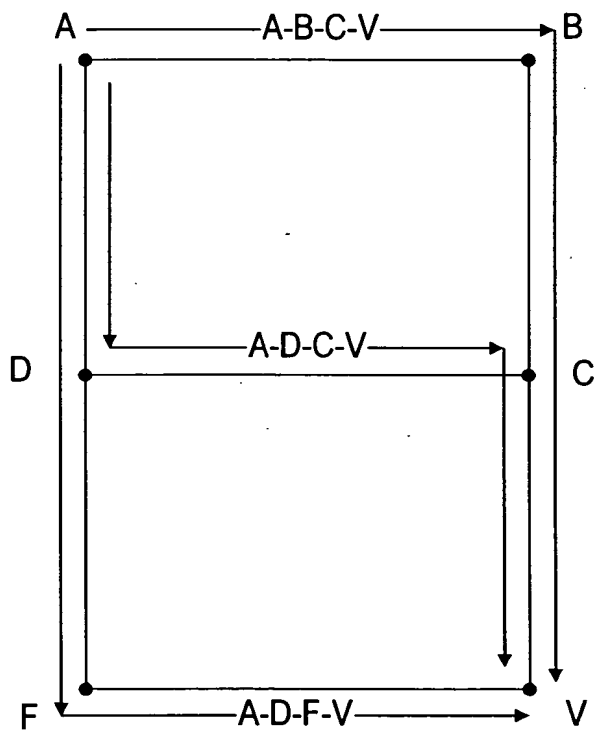


FIG. 5





**FIG. 7**

ORDERED STEP SEQUENCE	SET OF EVALUATED NODES E	SET OF REMAINING NODES R	SET OF ORDERED PATHS O AND COST METRICS
1	A	B, C, D, F, V	A—D = 10 A—B = 10
2	A, D	C, B, F, V	A—B = 10 A—D—C = 20 A—D—F = 20
3	A, B, D	C, F, V	A—D—C = 20 (1 <sup>ST</sup> SP TO C) A—D—F = 20 A—B—C = 20
4	A, B, C, D	F, V	A—B—C = 20 (2 <sup>ND</sup> SP TO C) A—D—F = 20 A—D—C—V = 30
5	A, B, C, D	F, V	A—D—F = 20 A—D—C—V = 30 A—B—C—V = 30 A—B—C—D = 30
6	A, B, C, D, F	V	A—D—C—V = 30 (1 <sup>ST</sup> SP TO V) A—B—C—V = 30 A—D—F—V = 30 A—B—C—D = 30
7	A, B, C, D, F, V	NULL	A—B—C—V = 30 (2 <sup>ND</sup> SP TO V) A—D—F—V = 30 A—B—C—D = 30
8	A, B, C, D, F, V	NULL	A—D—F—V = 30 (3 <sup>RD</sup> SP TO V) A—B—C—D = 30
9	A, B, C, D, F, V	NULL	A—B—C—D = 30
10	A, B, C, D, F, V	NULL	NULL

FIG. 8